

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2172

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require that all Department of Veterans Affairs orthotic-prosthetic laboratories, clinics, and prosthetists are certified by either the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics or the Board of Orthotics and Prosthetic Certification, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2007

Mr. REYES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require that all Department of Veterans Affairs orthotic-prosthetic laboratories, clinics, and prosthetists are certified by either the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics or the Board of Orthotics and Prosthetic Certification, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Amputee Veteran As-
5 sistance Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATION OF DEPART-**
 2 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ORTHOTIC-**
 3 **PROSTHETIC LABORATORIES; CONTRACTS**
 4 **FOR SERVICE AND REPAIR OF PROSTHETIC**
 5 **DEVICES; PLAN TO INFORM DISABLED VET-**
 6 **ERANS.**

7 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATION; CONTRACTS
 8 FOR SERVICE AND REPAIR; PLAN TO INFORM DISABLED
 9 VETERANS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 31 of title 38,
 11 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
 12 end the following new sections:

13 **“§ 3122. Certification of Department orthotic-pros-**
 14 **thetic laboratories**

15 “The Secretary shall ensure that all Department
 16 orthotic-prosthetic laboratories and clinics are certified by
 17 either of the following:

18 “(1) The American Board for Certification in
 19 Orthotics and Prosthetics.

20 “(2) The Board of Orthotics and Prosthetic
 21 Certification.

22 **“§ 3123. Contracts for service and repair of prosthetic**
 23 **devices with non-Department entities**

24 “The Secretary shall seek to enter into a contract
 25 with a non-Department entity that the Secretary deter-

1 mines is qualified to provide for the service and repair of
 2 prosthetic devices for a veteran if—

3 “(1) the Secretary determines that Department
 4 facilities are unable to perform the necessary service
 5 or repair due to a lack of technology or for any
 6 other reason that the Secretary determines prevents
 7 such service or repair in a timely manner; or

8 “(2) the veteran in need of such service or re-
 9 pair to a prosthetic device resides at a distance
 10 greater than 55 miles from the nearest suitable De-
 11 partment facility capable of furnishing such service
 12 or repair.

13 **“§ 3124. Plan to inform disabled veterans of techno-**
 14 **logical advances in the field of pros-**
 15 **thetics**

16 “The Secretary shall develop and carry out a plan
 17 to inform disabled veterans at least two times per year
 18 of technological advances in the field of prosthetics.”.

19 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
 20 tents at the beginning of such chapter is amended
 21 by adding at the end the following new items:

“3122. Certification of Department orthotic-prosthetic laboratories.

“3133. Contracts for service and repair of prosthetic devices with non-Depart-
 ment entities.

“3134. Plan to inform disabled veterans of technological advances in the field
 of prosthetics.”.

22 (b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—The Secretary shall imple-
 23 ment the requirements of—

1 (1) section 3122 of title 38, United States
2 Code, as added by subsection (a), not later than five
3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act;
4 and

5 (2) sections 3123 and 3124 of such title, as so
6 added, not later than six months after the date of
7 the enactment of this Act.

8 **SEC. 3. REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

9 **ORTHOTIC-PROSTHETIC LABORATORIES AND**
10 **SPECIALISTS.**

11 (a) REVIEW OF LABORATORIES AND CLINICS.—

12 (1) REVIEW REQUIRED.—Not later than one
13 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
14 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct and com-
15 plete a review of all Department of Veterans Affairs
16 orthotic-prosthetic laboratories and clinics to ensure
17 that the Department is capable of servicing and re-
18 pairing the most technologically advanced prosthetic
19 devices.

20 (2) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than six
21 months after the completion of the review under
22 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Con-
23 gress a report containing the Secretary's findings
24 under the review and any recommendations to ad-

1 dress any deficiencies in capability discovered as a
2 result of such review.

3 (b) REVIEW OF SPECIALISTS.—

4 (1) REVIEW REQUIRED.—Not later than one
5 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
6 Secretary shall conduct and complete a review of
7 Department prosthetists and orthotists to determine
8 what level and kinds of training and education will
9 be needed to ensure that such prosthetists and
10 orthotists are qualified to service and repair the
11 most technologically advanced prosthetic devices.

12 (2) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than six
13 months after the completion of the review under
14 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Con-
15 gress a report containing the Secretary's findings
16 under the review and any recommendations to ad-
17 dress any deficiencies in education, training, or qual-
18 ification discovered as a result of such review.

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